

Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 innocent people, including 189 Americans, some of whom were from my own State of Pennsylvania. This was not a tragic accident, but a deliberate act of cold-hearted murder. Two suspected Libyan intelligence agents were charged in 1991 by the United States and United Kingdom as having perpetrated this cowardly deed. Yet for more than 5 years they have remained safely protected by the Libyan Government. Despite the imposition of both U.S. and U.N. sanctions, this impasse has no end in sight.

That is one reason why the victims of the Pan Am 103 bombing are seeking accountability and compensation from the Government of Libya through civil actions here in United States courts. Unbelievably, before we passed legislation in April 1996, the immediate families of the victims were unable to sue in the United States because of Libya's sovereign immunity. Fortunately, we saw fit to change that cruel anomaly. However, Congress did not go far enough to recognize that there are other victims of terrorism besides those who tragically suffered personal injuries or death. In the case of Pan Am 103, thousands of innocent Americans lost their entire livelihood, pensions, benefits, and futures due to the subsequent bankruptcy of Pan American World Airways, an event directly related to the bombing. Yet these victims are not permitted their day in court by laws that only serve to protect the terrorist states.

There is no conceivable reason why a state that descends to the level of committing inhumane acts, such as the bombing of a civilian aircraft, should not be held totally and fully accountable for these intentional atrocities. No one can place a price on the loss of a loved one. But a family's loss of a loved one does not extinguish or diminish the loss another family might have suffered or suffers because of a loss of their livelihood.

That is why I am planning to introduce a bill that will allow any American financially harmed by an act of terrorism sponsored by one of the rogue states on the State Department's terrorism watch list to have their day in court and the opportunity to prove their losses. An American harmed by an intentional act as egregious as terrorism should be provided the opportunity to seek justice and compensation. This bill will send a message to those states who believe they can simply walk away from harming Americans. There is no legitimate reason that excuses our failure to act on this amendment and provide whatever possible legal protection we can. It is not only our political obligation as representatives of the U.S. Government, but it is our moral obligation to the American people we represent.

This proposed measure already has significant bipartisan support. Earlier today we sent to all Members of this House our request to join in this fight against terrorists. I hope that many more of my colleagues will see fit to join in our fight. No American victim of terrorism should ever be left alone to suffer as they do now. We can not, should not and will not stand for that.

H.R. 2015—THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

I am pleased that many of the worst provisions in the House version of this bill have been eliminated or moderated. The changes make it possible for me to support the conference report on this bill. As a result of the unceasing efforts of President Clinton and the Democrats in Congress to make this a better bill, this legislation contains a number of provisions that will benefit millions of Americans.

This legislation will ensure the solvency of the Medicare part A trust fund for the next 10 years, and it creates a commission that will recommend measures to preserve this important program for decades more. H.R. 2015 preserves the Medicare Program primarily by lowering future reimbursement rates for health care providers. The bill also provides several important new prevention benefits to Medicare recipients—including expanded mammography coverage, coverage of prostate and colorectal cancer screenings, and screenings for osteoporosis, and self-management programs for diabetes.

The bill also includes \$24 billion for President Clinton's initiative to provide health insurance coverage for children who currently have no health insurance. This is a major step forward. I believe that this country needs comprehensive health care reform, but in the absence of such reform this measure represents a solid incremental improvement. Some estimates have suggested that up to half of the 10 million children who currently lack health insurance could receive coverage through this initiative.

This bill also takes several important steps to reverse many of the draconian provisions that were included in the so-called welfare reform bill that was enacted in the 104th Congress. Due to the leadership of President Clinton, and at the insistence of the House and Senate Democrats, H.R. 2015 restores SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants who were receiving them before the welfare reform bill was enacted last year, and it provides SSI benefits for legal immigrants who were in the country at that time and who subsequently became disabled. In addition, the bill eliminated the provision in the House version of this bill that would have excluded welfare recipients in workfare programs from Federal minimum wage and workplace protection laws.

Finally, I would like to point out that the balanced budget package that we will adopt this week has only been made possible by the deficit reduction packages of 1990 and 1993—bills that together reduced deficits by over a trillion dollars. Those were the real budget balancing votes. Those bills raised taxes and cut spending. It was not easy, but it was absolutely necessary to produce a healthy economy and economic growth. The upbeat economic conditions that we are enjoying today are due in no small part to those bills, and the tax breaks provided in this balanced budget

package are the fruits of the seeds that were sown in 1990 and 1993 by Democratic Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, in a letter that the American Association of Retired Persons sent to me earlier today, Mr. Horace B. Deets concluded that "legislation of this scope can never fully satisfy every interested party. But, on balance * * * this conference report * * * will accomplish the objectives of balancing the budget while also protecting access, affordability, quality, and choice in the Medicare Program." I agree with his assessment. Consequently, I intend to vote in support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

SUPPORT AWARENESS OF SUICIDE AND EFFORTS TO PREVENT SUICIDE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a resolution today that recognizes that suicide is a national problem and encourages suicide prevention efforts. I am pleased that more than 20 of my colleagues are joining me in this effort by becoming original cosponsors of this bill.

It is my hope that congressional recognition will encourage people to talk about feelings of despair and suicide. An estimated 750,000 people attempt suicide each year. These attempts are traumatic not only for the individual but also for family and friends who surround him or her.

Suicide claims more than 31,000 lives annually, more than homicide. It is the ninth leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the third for young people aged 15 to 24. It is on the rise for young people in general and for African-American young men in particular.

We must talk about mental illness, and we must encourage treatment. We must tell our friends and our loved ones that it is OK to talk about feelings of despair, hopelessness, and suicide. For those who have the courage to get help, to seek treatment—we must support them. And we must talk about suicide so that we can try to understand it and prevent it.

Too much shame surrounds feelings of depression and suicide. We can change that—and we must—by reaching out to others in our community. This resolution recognizes suicide as a national problem and declares suicide prevention to be a national priority. It also encourages initiatives to prevent suicide and support people who have lost someone to suicide.

The Senate has already passed a similar resolution. It is my hope that the House of Representatives will soon consider this important issue.

HONORING TAIWAN'S
AMBASSADOR

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, we have seen significant changes in the Far East in the last

few weeks. Most of the attention has focused on the departure of Britain from Hong Kong, and the Beijing Government's assumption of control over those territories. Many of us are deeply concerned about what that will mean for the rights of the residents of Hong Kong, and for the future of civil liberties there.

But it would be unfortunate if those developments overshadowed what has happened in the Republic of China on Taiwan. On July 18, work was completed on a number of constitutional changes. Among the structural changes was the freezing of provincial government operations, a step which should make Taiwan more of a participatory and representative democracy. The changes will guarantee Taiwan's original residents full political participation. At the same time, other changes will also provide the kinds of social protections and guarantees that many of us consider an essential feature of a modern democracy. For instance, the changes will guarantee medical care to disabled citizens.

Let us hope that the progress Taiwan has made in the past and the further progress it has made with these changes shall serve as an example for other Asian nations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Jason Hu, the Representative of the Republic of China on Taiwan, on completing his first year of service here on Washington. Many of us in the House have come to know him and respect him for his work here and for sharing his perspective on Asian affairs with us. He is an able successor to his predecessor, Ambassador Liu.

MORRO BAY HARBOR FESTIVAL

HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the opening of the Morro Bay Harbor Festival, in Morro Bay, CA. On October 4 and 5 the people of Morro Bay will begin their annual celebration of the many fishermen and women of this growing villa who have played an integral role in the community, in the economy of the central coast, and indeed the entire country. As an avid seafood consumer, I can honestly say that some of the finest halibut I ever tasted has come from under the shadow of glorious Morro Rock.

It is my hope that Morro Bay, and its vitally important fishing industry, will continue to grow. In fact, it seems rather inconceivable that it will not. More and more Americans are looking to seafood as a healthy and delicious form of nutrition. In recent years, the popularity of seafood has grown to unprecedented levels, and the people of Morro Bay can be proud of this great accomplishment.

The Morro Bay Harbor Festival celebrates the people, natural beauty, and fishing industry that makes the central coast the unique place it is. As a resident of this area for over 30 years, I have personally experienced the marvelous beauty of Morro Bay. As a Member of Congress I am fighting to ensure the Federal funds needed to ensure the future economic vitality of the harbor, especially the critical Army Corps of Engineers' dredging project. With some help from the Federal Government, the strong spirit and determination of the peo-

ple of Morro Bay will ensure that this festival will be celebrated as long as fish swim in the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the unique and vital community of Morro Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG NATIONS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the many individuals who were noncombatants during the Holocaust of World War II, who risked their lives and those of their families to save countless people who faced death because of their religious beliefs. Two such people were Stacia Brazauskiene and Albinas Zilevicius. Both have been honored as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem and will be visiting with two of my constituents, Nathan and Sima Katz whose lives they saved during the war. They will be in New York City to join with the Katz family in celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of the Katz's granddaughter, Rebecca Levy.

In 1941, Nathan Katz and his family were living in Shavel, Lithuania, when the Nazi forces evacuated all Jews into the Shavel Ghetto. With the help of a Lithuanian Gentile named Antonites, Nathan and Sima Katz escaped with eight other family members. After being forced to flee from several hiding places, they were taken to the farm of the Zilevicius family.

Although Antonites has since disappeared into history, we know the heroic story of the Zileviciuses. With great care and much courage, the Zilevicius family built a hiding place behind a false wall in their barn for the Katzes, who remained on this farm protected by the Zilevicius until the end of the war. The Zilevicius family was constantly aware that they could be executed for their attempts at hiding the members of the Katz family. On several occasions, searches by the Nazis almost undid the heroic efforts of these protectors. Despite the horrendous atmosphere of terror in which both families lived, they survived.

Most significant is the fact that the members of the Zilevicius family had no prior relationship with Nathan and Sima Katz nor any other member of the Katz family. In addition, the Zilevicius family received no remuneration from those families whose lives they were protecting.

A war often produces great heroes who have distinguished themselves in military action. What is more compelling, however, is that ordinary citizens with no prior training risk their lives not for any national allegiance or desire for reward, but do so because it is the right and compassionate thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing and honoring the remaining members of the Zilevicius family, Stacia Brazauskiene and Albinas Zilevicius, as they join with Nathan and Sima Katz whose lives that have both saved and enriched.

JAMAICA'S 35 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as friends of Jamaica everywhere celebrate its 35th anniversary of independence, we pause to recognize and commend our democratic neighbor to the south and extend our heartiest congratulations to the Government and people of Jamaica and to Jamaican-Americans throughout the United States.

I place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, for the benefit of my colleagues, the 35th anniversary messages issued by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Right Honorable P.J. Patterson and the Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Dr. Richard L. Bernal.

35TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE
MESSAGE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF
JAMAICA, THE RT. HON. P.J. PATTERSON, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

This year, as we celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Jamaica's Independence, we also return to the tradition of Emancipation Day as one which deserves our special commemoration.

Under the theme: "Full Free Emancipation to Independence", our national celebrations will climax during the period from Friday August 1—Emancipation Day to Monday August 4—Independence Day.

The resumption of Emancipation Day as a public holiday commemorates not only the abolition of slavery, but the birth of free Jamaica. It is the advent of that Free Jamaica which now permits us to enjoy political independence, democracy, constitutional rule and to be equal members of a civil society.

Emancipation and Independence celebrations this year will provide the opportunity for Jamaicans at home and abroad to reflect on our ancestral roots.

The twin occasion also provides a timely opportunity for all Jamaicans everywhere to commit ourselves to healing the nation, unifying our people and removing whatever barriers have tended to divide us in the past.

Jamaicans all over the world are a proud people. Our nation, despite its limited size and economic resources, stands tall in the international arena. There have been outstanding achievements in the fields of sports, music, and tourism to name a few.

Many of you, who now live overseas, have distinguished yourselves in several fields of endeavour, and continue to make us proud.

I invite all Jamaicans residing overseas to join together to celebrate our rich heritage on Emancipation Day. Let us renew our commitment to build an independent Jamaica, Land We Love.

On behalf of the Government and Jamaicans at home, I send heartiest greetings to all Jamaicans abroad, their extended families and friends of our island, no matter what their nationality.

Happy Emancipation and Independence anniversaries.

May God continue to bless you all.

P.J. PATTERSON,
Prime Minister of Jamaica.

MESSAGE FROM JAMAICA'S AMBASSADOR TO
THE UNITED STATES HIS EXCELLENCY DR.
RICHARD L. BERNAL ON THE OCCASION OF
JAMAICA'S THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

This year, as we come together to celebrate the thirty-fifth year of independence,